

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant	:	Pericles Deavila	
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Customer No.	:	022913	

AMENDMENT "E" AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 28, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 20 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A mobile safety compliance apparatus comprising:

a shell having a base, a top, a plurality of substantially vertical walls between ~~the~~ said base and ~~the~~ said top, and a plurality of substantially horizontal walls connected to ~~the~~ said vertical walls to form a plurality of open compartments;

at least one selectively removable door hingedly linked to ~~the~~ said shell ~~by a plurality of pins, wherein said at least one selectively removable door includes a recessed portion receiving an insert therein to enable said at least one selectively removable door to be used as a stretcher, wherein said plurality of pins are readily removable such that the at least one selectively removable door can quickly and easily be removed;~~

a water supply system including at least one water supply tank removably stored in one of the compartments and apparatus connected to ~~the~~ said water supply tank to dispense water contained therein;

a waste water collection system including at least one waste water collection tank stored in one of the compartments and tubing connected to ~~the~~ said water collection tank to convey waste water to it; and

a sink positioned in a first recess defined in at least one of ~~the~~ said substantially vertical walls, said receptacle in fluid communication with said waste water collection system.

2. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shell is made of plastic material and the vertical and horizontal walls are integrally molded as a single apparatus.

3. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the compartments have removable dividers.

4. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the doors have window portions.

5. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a pair of ground-engaging wheels attached to the shell at the base in spaced parallel arrangement to one side of the shell, the pair of wheels allowing the apparatus to be tipped onto the wheels to facilitate moving it.

6. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the base of the shell includes at least one ground-engaging flange at a side of the base opposite the pair of ground engaging wheels, the flange having an aperture which allows for securing the flange to the ground.

7. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a spaced pair of ground engaging casters disposed below the base of the shell and approximately centered under the shell so that the apparatus is slightly elevated above the ground when it is balanced on the casters, thereby facilitating moving the apparatus along the ground on the casters.

8. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a lifting provision at the top of the shell for attaching a lifting device to lift the apparatus.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 8. wherein the lifting provision includes a suspension rod extending through the top and the base, a support member disposed underneath the base and engaging the rod, and an eyelet engaging the rod at the top such that when the apparatus is lifted by eyelet, weight of the apparatus is supported by the support member.

10. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of the vertical walls has an outer surface with a transparent sheet removably attached to a portion of it such that printed material can be displayed on the outer surface and the transparent sheet provides a weather resistant cover for the printed material.

11. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a substantially flat table portion pivotally attached to the shell such that the table portion has a stowed position against the shell and a deployed position whereat it is pivoted away from the shell to a substantially horizontal position.

12. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a seat portion pivotally attached to the shell such that the seat has a stowed position against the shell and a deployed position whereat it is pivoted away from the shell to a substantially horizontal position.

13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second wherein at least one door has having provisions for connecting support legs to it so that the said second door enabling said second door to can be used as a table.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ said second door includes a first portion attached to said second door and a second portion hingedly coupled to said first portion, wherein said second portion is movable includes a movable portion that is deployed to increase the surface area of said second door when the said second door is used as a table.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 15, wherein ~~the movable~~ said second portion is hingedly attached to the said second door, and the said second door further

includes a plurality of extensible slats ~~that are~~ stored in ~~the~~ said second door and are partially extended to support ~~the~~ said second portion.

17. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of removable support legs attached to the door when it is removed, thereby supporting the door in a generally horizontal position for use as a table.

18. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an eyewash attached to the shell, the eyewash receiving water from the water supply system, dispensing the water, collecting the water dispensed and directing it to the waste water collection system.

19. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the eyewash is pivotable between a stowed position against the shell and a deployed position extending outward from shell.

20. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the eyewash is positioned lower than its source of water and water flows to the eyewash by force of gravity.

21. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a heating device to heat a portion of water contained in the water supply system.

22. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the water supply system includes a washing supply tank that supplies water for hand washing, and the heating device is installed in the washing supply tank.

23. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the heating device receives water from the water supply system, heats it to produce heated water at a first temperature, then mixes it with unheated water from the water supply system to provide heated water at a second temperature lower than the first temperature.

24. **(Canceled)**

25. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the water supply system includes a washing supply tank that supplies water for hand washing, the washing supply tank being lower than the sink, and further comprising a water dispensing tube located above the sink and a water pump disposed between the washing supply tank and the water dispensing tube, the water pump being in fluid communication with the washing supply tank to pump water from it when activated.

26. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the water pump is mounted in the base of the shell.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the water supply system includes a drinking water supply tank and a drinking water spigot.

28. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the drinking water supply tank is positioned higher than the drinking water spigot so that drinking water flows to the spigot by force of gravity.

29. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising a refrigeration unit disposed between the drinking water supply tank and the drinking water spigot to chill drinking water.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a soap dispenser, a cup dispenser, an eyeglass cleaner dispenser, and a tissue dispenser all attached to the first recess of the shell.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shell has a second recess disposed below the first recess, the second recess containing a waste collection container.

32. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an electrical system including a power supply that can be connected to an external power source, and a storage battery for supplying temporary power to the electrical system.

33. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the electrical system includes at least one light for lighting an area around the apparatus.

34. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the electrical system includes a warning light to attract attention.

35. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising electronic communications equipment mounted on the shell and connected to the electrical system.

36. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a first aid kit mounted to the shell in one of the compartments.

37. **(Currently Amended)** A mobile safety compliance apparatus comprising:

a shell having a base, a top and a plurality of substantially vertical walls, said walls having formed therebetween at least one open compartment;

a ~~plurality of~~ selectively removable door ~~doors~~ hingedly linked to ~~the said~~ shell, ~~each door being hinged by a plurality of pins~~, wherein ~~at least one of the said plurality of~~ selectively removable ~~doors~~ door comprises at least one of: (i) a recessed portion receiving an insert therein to enable said selectively removable door to be used as a stretcher, or (ii) a movable portion hingedly attached to said selectively removable door to enable said selectively removable door to be used as a table and at least one extendable slat stored in said selectively removable door, said movable portion being deployable to increase the surface area of said selectively removable door when said selectively removable door is used as a table, said at least one extendable slat being configured to support said movable portion when said movable portion is deployed and said at least one extendable slat is extended, ~~wherein the plurality of pins are readily removable such that the selectively removable doors can quickly and easily be removed;~~

ground-engaging wheels attached to ~~the said~~ shell at ~~the said~~ base;

a lifting provision at ~~the said~~ top of ~~the said~~ shell for attaching a lifting device to lift the apparatus;

a water supply system including at least one water supply tank in at least one of ~~the said~~ compartments and apparatus connected to ~~the said~~ water supply tank to dispense water contained therein;

a waste water collection system including at least one waste water collection tank in at least one of ~~the said~~ compartments and tubing connected to ~~the said~~ water collection tank to convey waste water to it;

a sink positioned in a recess defined in at least one of ~~the~~ said substantially vertical walls of the shell, ~~the~~ said sink being in fluid communication with ~~the~~ said tubing of ~~the~~ said waste water collection system to convey water collected by ~~the~~ said sink into ~~the~~ said waste water system;

a heating device to heat a portion of water in ~~the~~ said water supply system;

electric lights attached to ~~the~~ said shell for lighting an area around ~~the~~ said shell; and

an eyewash attached to ~~the~~ said shell, ~~the~~ said eyewash receiving water from ~~the~~ said the water supply system, dispensing the water, collecting the water dispensed and directing it to the said waste water collection system.

38. **(Canceled)**

39. **(Canceled)**

40. **(Withdrawn)** A method of supplying equipment and materials to meet regulatory requirements for safety and health, comprising the steps of:

producing a mobile apparatus having closeable compartments, a self-contained water supply system, and a waste water collection system; and storing equipment and materials required to meet the regulatory requirements on or in the apparatus.

41. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

putting water in the water supply system; and heating at least a portion of the water in the water supply system.

42-118 (Canceled)

119. (Currently Amended) A mobile safety compliance apparatus comprising:
- a shell having a plurality of substantially vertical walls, said walls having formed therebetween at least one open compartment;
 - at least one selectively removable door linked to said shell ~~by a plurality of pins~~, said at least one selectively removable door including a movable portion hingedly attached to said selectively removable door to enable said selectively removable door to be used as a table and at least one extendable slat stored in said selectively removable door, said movable portion being deployable to increase the surface area of said selectively removable door when said selectively removable door is used as a table, said at least one extendable slat being configured to support said movable portion when said movable portion is deployed and said at least one extendable slat is extended ~~being adapted for use as a stretcher, wherein said plurality of pins are readily removable such that the at least one selectively removable door can quickly and easily be removed;~~
 - a water supply system including at least one water supply tank contained in said at least one open compartment and a dispensing device connected to the water supply tank to dispense water contained therein;
 - a waste water collection system including at least one waste water collection tank stored in one of said compartments and a waste water receptacle in fluid communication with said at least one waste water collection tank for receiving waste water; and
 - a receptacle connected to said shell, said receptacle in fluid communication with said waste water collection system for receiving water collected by said receptacle.

120. **(Canceled)**

121. **(Canceled)**

122. **(Currently Amended)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein the configuration of ~~at least one of the one or more doors~~ said selectively removable door allows a user to ascertain what is behind the door.

123. **(Currently Amended)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, ~~wherein at least one of the one or more~~ further comprising a second door ~~doors is~~ configured to receive a stiffening insert adapted to provide additional strength and/or support to said second door ~~the one or more doors~~.

124. **(Canceled)**

125. **(Canceled)**

126. **(Currently Amended)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein said at least one selectively removable door ~~of the one or more doors~~ is utilized with one or more legs to maintain ~~the doors~~ said at least one selectively removable door in a substantially horizontal position when said at least one ~~of the one or more doors~~ selectively removable door is utilized as a table.

127. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 126, wherein at least one of the one or more doors can be removed from the shell to function as a free standing table.

128. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein said water supply system includes a plurality of water tanks, at least one of said plurality of water tanks dedicated for holding potable water.

129. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 128, wherein at least one of said plurality of water supply tanks comprises a flexible container adapted to accommodate a quantity of water.

130. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 128, wherein at least one of said plurality of water supply tanks is connected to a water heating device and wherein at least a second of said plurality of water supply tanks is connected to a water chilling device.

131. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 128, wherein at least one of said plurality of water supply tanks is connected to a first water dispensing device and at least a second of said plurality of water supply tanks is connected to a second water dispensing device.

132. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein said water supply is positioned above said water dispensing device such that gravitational flow facilitates the flow of water from the water supply tank to the water dispensing device.

133. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein said water supply system further includes a quick connect fitting which allows the water supply tank to be quickly and efficiently disconnected from the other components of the water supply system.

134. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein the quick connect fitting prevents water from leaking from tubing connecting the water supply tank to the water dispensing device.

135. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein the water supply system further comprises a foot pump adapted to pump water from the water supply tank to the water dispensing device.

136. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein said waste water collection tank is selectively removable.

137. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein said waste water collection tank comprises a flexible container adapted to accommodate a quantity of water.

138. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein said apparatus further comprises an eyewash attached to said shell, said eyewash receiving water from said water supply system and dispensing the water, said waste water collection system collecting the water dispensed.

139. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 138, wherein said eyewash is stowable.

140. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 139, wherein said stowable eyewash is pivotably coupled to the shell.

141. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 139, wherein said stowable eyewash is pivoted against a side of the shell when the stowable eyewash is in a stowed position.

142. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 139, wherein said stowable eyewash extends outward from the side of the shell when the stowable eyewash is in a deployed position.

143. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 139, wherein said stowable eyewash is retained in the stowed position absent deployment by a user.

144. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 139, wherein said stowable eyewash is retained in position by friction of the mechanism coupling stowable eyewash to the side of the shell.

145. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 138, wherein said eyewash further comprises an eyewash water supply.

146. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 145, wherein said eyewash water supply also provides water for drinking and/or washing hands of a user.

147. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 145, wherein said eyewash water supply further comprises an eyewash waste water collection container.

148. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 145, wherein said eyewash water supply further comprises a water warming apparatus for warming water delivered to the stowable eyewash.

149. **(Canceled)**

150. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 119, wherein the apparatus further comprises a water chilling device to chill at least a portion of water contained in said water supply system.

151. **(Canceled)**

152. **(Previously Presented)** A mobile safety compliance apparatus containing equipment and emergency supplies in compliance with local health and safety standards, the mobile safety compliance apparatus comprising:

a housing with a plurality of compartments formed therein, said plurality of compartments preconfigured to hold the equipment and emergency supplies in anticipation of a specific selected emergency and in compliance with the local health and safety standards;

electronic communication equipment stored in said housing, said electronic communication equipment selected from a group consisting of a global positioning satellite receiving unit, a radio, a telephone and computer communication devices; and

at least one door configured to be selectively attached to said housing, wherein said at least one door comprises support legs connected to one side of said door to permit said at least one door to function as a table. ~~by at least one pin, said at least one door being selectively removable and configured to be used as a stretcher, wherein said pin is readily removable such that the at least one door can quickly and easily be removed.~~

153. **(Previously Presented)** The mobile safety compliance apparatus recited in claim 152, wherein the apparatus further comprises a water supply system including at least one water supply tank contained in at least one of said plurality of compartments and a dispensing device fluidly connected to said water supply tank to dispense water contained therein.

REMARKS

I. Background

Applicant and Applicant's attorney wish to thank the Examiner for the time spent reviewing the application and preparing the Office Action of November 28, 2005 (the "Office Action"). In the Office Action, claims 1-23, 25-37, 119, 122, 123, 126-148, 150, 152 and 153 were rejected in light of Pool in view of several references mentioned with further specificity below. Independent claims 1, 119 and 152 were rejected in light of Pool alone, while independent claim 37 was rejected in light of Pool in view of Walker, Silva and Stein.

By this paper, claims 1, 14-16, 37, 119, 122-123, 126 and 152 have been amended and claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing the same through a subsequent or divisional application. Applicant submits that the above claim amendments do not add new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested. As a result, claims 1-12, 14-23, 25-37, 40, 41, 119, 122, 123, 126-148, 150, 152 and 153 are pending and should be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 21, 22, 25, 26, 30-31, 119, 122, 123, 133, 134, 136-137, 152 and 153 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in light of U.S. Patent No. 5,702,115 to Pool ("Pool"), of which claims 1, 119 and 152 are independent in form.

Independent claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,625,949 to Walker ("Walker"), U.S. Patent No. 4,998,302 to Silva ("Silva") and U.S. Patent No. 6,296,626 to Stein ("Stein").

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,820,143 to Rigo ("Rigo"). Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of Walker. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,833,330 to Kos ("Kos"). Claims 11, 12, 14, 17, 126 and 127 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,518,258 to Cox ("Cox"). Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of Cox and U.S. Patent No. 5,605,344 to Insalaco et al. ("Insalaco"). Claims 18-20 and 138-148 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of Stein. Claims 23, 32-35, 128, 129 and 131 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of Silva. Claims 27, 28 and 132 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,220,610 to Cox (the "Cox '610 patent"). Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of Cox '610 patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,131,929 to Haley ("Haley"). Claim 130 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of Silva and Haley. Claim 135 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Pool in view of U.S. Patent No. Des. 391,343 to Tagg ("Tagg"). Claim 150 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool in view of Haley.

According to the applicable law, a claimed invention is unpatentable for obviousness if the differences between it and the prior art "are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art." 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) (2005); *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 14 (1966); MPEP 2142. Obviousness is a legal question based on underlying factual determinations including: (1) the scope and content of the prior art, including what that prior art teaches explicitly and inherently; (2) the level of ordinary skill in the prior art; (3) the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art; and (4) objective evidence of nonobviousness. *Graham*, 383 U.S. at 17-18; *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 998 (Fed. Cir. 1999). It is the initial burden of the PTO to demonstrate a *prima facie* case of obviousness, which requires the PTO to show that the relied upon references teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims. MPEP 2142 (emphasis added).

According to MPEP section 2143:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)."

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that the limitations recited with respect to independent claim 1, 37, 119 and 152 are not obvious in light of Pool, Walker, Silva and Stein. Specifically, Pool fails to teach or suggest a mobile safety compliance apparatus comprising a selectively removable door that includes a recessed portion receiving an insert therein to enable said at least one selectively removable door to be used as a stretcher, as recited in claim 1.

Similarly, Pool fails to teach or suggest a mobile safety compliance apparatus comprising a selectively removable door including a movable portion hingedly attached to said selectively removable door to enable said selectively removable door to be used as a table, as recited in claim 119. Furthermore, Pool fails to teach or suggest the limitation of at least one extendable slat stored in said selectively removable door, as recited in claim 119. Furthermore yet, Pool fails to teach or suggest the limitation of said movable portion being deployable to increase the surface area of said selectively removable door when said selectively removable door is used as a table, as recited in claim 119. Finally, Pool fails to teach or suggest the limitation of said at least one extendable slat being configured to support said movable portion when said movable portion is deployed and said at least one extendable slat is extended, as required by claim 119.

Likewise, Pool fails to teach or suggest a mobile safety compliance apparatus comprising at least one door configured to be selectively attached to said housing, wherein said at least one door comprises support legs connected to one side of said door to permit said at least one door to function as a table, as recited in claim 152.

Furthermore, Pool, Walker, Silva and Stein fail to teach or suggest, whether alone or in combination, a mobile safety compliance apparatus comprising a selectively removable door that comprises at least one of: (i) a recessed portion receiving an insert therein to enable said selectively removable door to be used as a stretcher, or (ii) a movable portion hingedly attached

to said selectively removable door to enable said selectively removable door to be used as a table and at least one extendable slat stored in said selectively removable door, said movable portion being deployable to increase the surface area of said selectively removable door when said selectively removable door is used as a table, said at least one extendable slat being configured to support said movable portion when said movable portion is deployed and said at least one extendable slat is extended, as claimed in claim 37.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-12, 14-23, 25-37, 119, 122, 123, 126-148, 150, 152 and 153 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-12, 14-23, 25-36, 122-123, 126-148, 150 and 153 depend from an allowable base claim and thus incorporate all the limitations respectively presented therein. As such, reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified claims are now respectfully requested.

Conclusion

By this paper pending claims 1, 14-16, 37, 119, 122-123, 126 and 152 have been amended for the sake of clarity or to more clearly point out the novel aspects of Applicant's invention, and claim 13 has been cancelled. As a result, claims 1-12, 14-23, 25-37, 119, 122, 123, 126-148, 150, 152 and 153 are pending and should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified claims are now respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 24 day of May 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Stringham", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

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